

JAN 22 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE THE
POSSIBILITY OF UPDATING "HAWAI'I SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE
BLIND" TO "HAWAI'I SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF" TO REDUCE CONFUSION
AND IDENTIFY WHERE STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND MAY ACCESS
APPROPRIATE RESOURCES AND SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind,
2 located in the Kapahulu district of Honolulu, is a Department of
3 Education public school serving students who are deaf, hard of
4 hearing, or deaf-blind; and

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6 WHEREAS, although historically students who were blind
7 attended the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind, for many
8 years the school has limited enrollment to students who are
9 deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind and who use American Sign
10 Language for communication; and

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12 WHEREAS, many students in Hawai'i who are both hearing and
13 blind attend mainstream schools in their local districts or
14 other schools of their choice; and

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16 WHEREAS, blindness is no longer a basis to attend the
17 Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind today
20 primarily serves students who are deaf or hard of hearing whose
21 primary language is American Sign Language; and

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23 WHEREAS, currently, all students who are hearing and blind
24 in the State attend their home schools with support services
25 with teachers of the visually impaired; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind
28 currently serves as an identifiable office within the Department
29 of Education that provides resources and services for students
30 who are blind, such as a library of Braille and enlarged print
31 books, assistive devices, orientation and mobility services, and
32 Braille training; and



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2 WHEREAS, the name of the school describes its student
3 population and that its education program includes blind
4 children and adults, which may generate confusion; and
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6 WHEREAS, this confusion may create an obstacle to accessing
7 important education and education-related services for blind
8 children and adults in Hawai'i; and
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10 WHEREAS, in order to change the school name, Board of
11 Education Policy 301-8 requires that the Complex Area
12 Superintendent recommend the name of the school, in consultation
13 with the school principal, to the Superintendent, who will
14 recommend the name of the school to the Board of Education for
15 approval; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
18 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
19 Department of Education is requested to explore the possibility
20 of updating "Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind" to
21 "Hawai'i School for the Deaf" to reduce confusion; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
24 consider identifying a separate office or section within the
25 Department where students who are blind may access appropriate
26 resources and services; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
30 Principal of the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind,
31 Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind Community Council,
32 Administrator of the Hawai'i Division of Vocational
33 Rehabilitation, and Hawai'i Association of the Blind.
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OFFERED BY: Paul Rhoads

